

The Tropic Coast QUEENSLAND.

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MAGNETIC ISLAND.

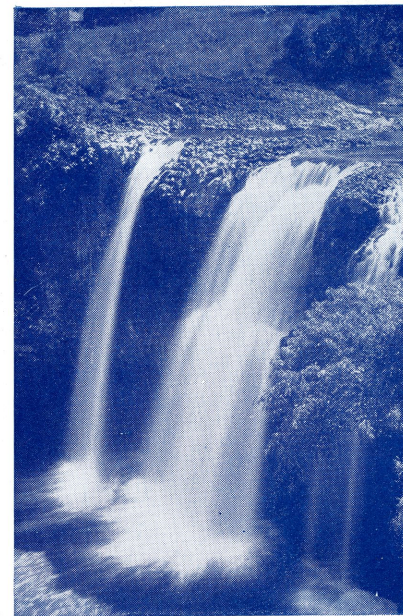


DUNK ISLAND.

QUEENSLAND'S *Golden Littoral*

THE north-east shoulder of Australia, the tropic coast of Queensland from Townsville to Cairns, is a region abounding in tourist attractions. It is a most picturesque and highly fertile tract of country, possessing a winter climate which is perfection itself. From Cape Cleveland to Trinity Bay the golden days and star-encrusted nights, the winterless seas and serene robin's-egg skies, the train that speeds through the riotous splendour of jungles and forested ranges and far-extending plantations, the ship that rarely rocks its keel an inch on slumber seas, are all expressions of tangible romance and visible enchantment. The scented breath of burning "trash," the pungent odour of sea-wrack on the tide-bared reefs mingling

with the fragrance of frangipanni and port-wine magnolias or the sweet smell of townships that seem made of crushed sugarcane; jungle-clad spurs shrouded in purple or larkspur-blue, and distant reefs and shoals lying like shadows on the sea along miles of cay and coral; crystal-clear streams that rise in crater lakes high up in the tablelands and hustle on and on through wild tropic beauty, singing round mossy rocks in fluid lisps of green, silvering the brows of innumerable waterfalls, sometimes imprisoned between precipitous gorges but ever breaking out into the sunshine again as they reach the golden littoral and join "the innumerable laughter of the waves" Everywhere this northern coast is full of beauty and enchantment and romance. The names of ranges and rivers, bays and cays recall stirring stories of early discovery and settlement. "Tragedy Coast" the region was once named, for the blacks were particularly treacherous and the uncharted coral-strewn waters a death-trap for the unwary. But to-day where recorded romance is not, the eye supplies it at every turn along this wonderful littoral—
Queensland's sun-
drenched
Tropic
Coast.



MENA FALLS, PARONELLA PARK.


LEAFE POINT, HINCHINBROOK CHANNEL.





SUNSET AT PALM ISLAND.

GATEWAY TO THE TROPICS



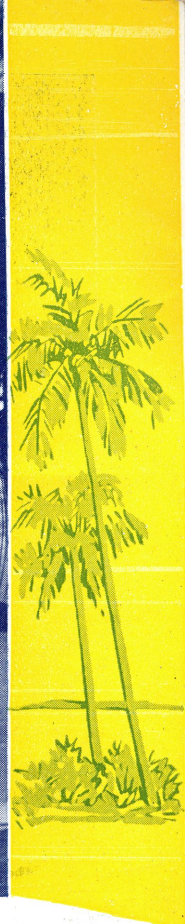
TOWNSVILLE is the burnished gateway to all the redundant charms and delights of tropical north-east Australia. Situated some 800 miles north from Brisbane on the silver shores of Cleveland Bay, it is visited by large numbers of holiday-makers every winter. The climate by these happy shores is truly delightful during the glorious winter months, June, July, and August. The soft airs and graces of tropical Queensland are immediately noticeable. The opulent languorous warmth, the colourful pageantry of oleanders, bougainvilleas, poincianas, crotons, and acalyphas, strange tropical fruits, strange sights, and, over all, the strong down-pouring of pagan sunshine . . . There is no mistaking it—this is the Tropic North.

Behind the city looms the precipitous bulk of Castle Hill (933 feet) and across the bay is "this summer isle of Eden"—Magnetic. Inland are the great humping plains extending interminably to the rim of the sunset—cattle country, sheep runs, mines. Southward are the sugarcane-growing districts of the Burdekin Delta and Home Hill. To the north, bordered by the Coral Sea, are more sugar-cane plantations, forests of cedar and walnut, extravagantly green vine-jungles and rugged mountain systems—the Wonderland of North Queensland.

From a humble beginning as a boiling-down depot for the produce from surrounding pastoral properties, Townsville has, in less than seventy-five years, grown to be the second largest provincial city in Queensland, with a population of 28,000. It is the port for the produce from the extensive hinterland, consisting of meat, sugar, minerals (mainly silver-lead bullion, zinc concentrates, &c., from Mount Isa mines), timber, and tobacco. Ross River and Alligator Creek meatworks, the largest in the Commonwealth, handle much of the produce from the cattle country, and export many tons of frozen beef and canned goods.

A number of short tours may be made to places of interest in and around the city. A most impressive panorama may be obtained from the summit of **Castle Hill**, easily accessible by way of Hynes Highway. **Mount St. John** gardens and bird sanctuary are also worth a visit. Another tourist trip is to **Mount Spec**, about 50 miles north of Townsville. Access is by rail to Moongoobulla and then over a scenic highway to Cloudy Clearing (2,830 feet). **Magnetic Island**, however, with its sunlit coves of peace, its coconut palm groves, and rugged heights, is Townsville's principal aquatic playground. There are pretty little settlements at Nellie Bay, Jeffrey's Bay, Alma Bay, and Horseshoe Bay, comprising separate cabins, community dining and recreation rooms, and modern conveniences. The settlements are picturesquely set amid palms, mangoes, tamarinds, and other tropical trees, and overlook hazy mazy-blue seascapes of ineffable beauty. Conditions are ideal for really enjoyable holidays—splendid fishing, bathing all the year round, day and night tennis, strolling along the scenic pathways from bay to bay and climbing among the rugged granite country inland (Mount Cook rises to 1,628 feet), sun-basking on sandy beaches, or merely dreaming away the languid hours under the cool shade of dark-foliaged mango trees. In all, Magnetic is a delightful island retreat far removed from the hurly-burly, frets and cares of every-day life.

Visitors to the Tropic North during the winter tourist season may have the delightful experience of visiting **Great Palm Island**, the site of the largest aboriginal settlement in Queensland. Excursions are arranged regularly on the day of departure of north-bound interstate vessels from Townsville. The vessels anchor in Challenger Bay long enough to permit passengers to



disembark. Launches also operate between Townsville and the island. Corroborees are often staged for entertainment of visitors.

Still further north is **Hinchinbrook Island**, the largest national park in Queensland. Situated in Rockingham Bay approaching within a few miles of the Herbert River in the south and to a point opposite Cardwell in the north, Hinchinbrook Island is 22 miles long and comprises more than 96,700 acres of steep ranges, cone-shaped peaks, gorges, and table-tops clothed with a rich brocade of deep-green tropical vegetation. Between the rugged peaks which rise abruptly from the water's edge to more than 3,000 feet and the majestic ranges on the mainland, is a comparatively narrow channel which mirrors the luxuriant growth on the towering slopes and assumes a likeness to a land-locked fiord. Only small vessels now traverse Hinchinbrook Channel—"The loveliest blue waterlane in the world."

Dunk Island is another of these Isles of Romance within the regions of the Great Barrier Reef. One of the most far-famed fragments of its kind. "This delicious isle" is situated a few miles off Tam-o'-Shanter Point in Rockingham Bay, is girt by ten miles of scalloped shores, and rises to 860 feet. Fragrant with memories of that literary beachcomber, the late E. J. Banfield, it still retains much of the enchantment of the insular Arden of "My Tropic Isle." Visitors journey by train to Tully where service cars connect with a launch at the mouth of the Hull River.



FROM CASTLE HILL, TOWNSVILLE.

"SUGAR HEAVEN"

THE riverside township of **Innisfail** is in the heart of the "Sugar Heaven"—a million acres of verdant plantations which stretch along the comparatively narrow coastal belt from Ingham to Cairns. Few agricultural areas in the world compare with the fertility of this Northern region of sunshine and sugar-cane, cedar, and gold. The majestic Bellenden-Ker Range dominates the landscape, with Bartle Frere (5,287 feet) and Woodoonooran (5,128 feet) rival guardians, and on all sides green fields of sugar-cane spread over hills and dales like a shoreless sea. In the crushing season the mills pulsate with life, and by night flares of burning "trash" illuminate a landscape which has all the appearances of a foreign country.

From Townsville the "Sunshine Express" passes through cattle country until Rollingsstone; but from there onward the country assumes a more tropical appearance, and from Ingham to Innisfail, and then on through Babinda, Aloomba, Gordonvale, to Cairns is the most fascinating section of the Sunshine Route.

The Johnstone River district, picturesque and prodigal, possesses a wealth of scenic interest. A run through the canefields to **Mourilyan Harbour** never fails to delight. **Etty Bay** is a pretty watering place, and **Paronella Park** a popular tourist attraction. A trip to the Tablelands by way of **Palmerston Highway** from Innisfail is one of the highspots of a tour of the Northern Wonderland. This scenic route offers tourists an opportunity of making the round trip over the Great Plateau by way of either Innisfail or Cairns. It is a truly wonderful journey from whatever point the traveller starts, the most advantageous way of experiencing the charms and delights of the tablelands within a limited period.

CANE-SUGAR FIELDS, NEAR INNISFAIL.



TRAVEL SERVICE

OFFICERS of the Bureau will gladly plan and arrange complete tours to North Queensland and quote inclusive costs embracing train, ship, or 'plane transportation and accommodation en route. This service is provided without extra cost.

Special all-expense tours are offered in conjunction with the arrivals and departures of ships and trains at Townsville and Cairns throughout the year. Complete itineraries and costs will be supplied on application.

Representatives of the Bureau meet interstate vessels at Brisbane, Townsville, and Cairns, and their services are available free of cost to visitors who desire advice concerning accommodation, routes, transportation, and tourist attractions. Complete bookings may be made with these officers.

Transportation services and accommodation at hotels are taxed during the winter season, extending from May to September, and intending visitors to North Queensland are advised to make their bookings well in advance at offices of the—

Queensland Government Tourist Bureau

**Adelaide St.,
Brisbane**

**17 Martin Pl.,
Sydney**

**303 Collins St.,
Melbourne**

and at

**Rockhampton,
Townsville, and
Cairns.**

